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**Congress of the United States
House of Representatives**

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The Honorable Norman Y. Mineta
Department of Transportation
400 7th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20590-0005

Dear Secretary Mineta,

As you know, the State of Indiana recently chose to observe Daylight Saving Time. It must now be determined under which time zone Indiana and its various counties should fall. As the Representative of Michigan's 6th Congressional District, which borders Indiana, I urge the Department of Transportation to include the Indiana Counties of St. Joseph and Elkhart in the Eastern Time zone. This decision will have substantial economic and social consequences for those residents who live near the Michigan and Indiana border.

This issue is of profound interest to approximately 250,000 of my constituents who live in the three counties that border Indiana. The Indiana counties of Elkhart and St. Joseph, which includes the city of South Bend, are part of a larger community known as Michiana, and the ties that bind this region are numerous. Tens of thousands of individuals cross the Indiana/Michigan border each day on their way to work. Parents cross the state lines to drop off and pick up their kids at school and daycare. Thousands more people regularly cross the border in the course of their every day lives.

The communities of Michiana are also part of the same Metropolitan Statistical Area. They share the same regional airport located in South Bend and also rely upon the same media outlets for their local news. Geographically, several of Michigan's communities, including my hometown of St. Joseph, are further west than South Bend.

All that the residents of the Michiana region desire is some consistency. For decades, residents have endured chaos and confusion starting every first Sunday in April, when Michigan observed DST and Indiana did not. The ensuing one hour difference through the last Sunday in October consistently resulted in bewilderment, miscommunication and inconvenience. There now exists the unique opportunity to end decades of confusion for the residents of Michiana and align St. Joseph and Elkhart Counties in the Eastern time zone with their Michigan counterparts.

Various community governments in Michigan have also formally expressed for St. Joseph and Elkhart Counties to be within the Eastern Time zone. The City of Niles, Michigan was the most

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recent to adopt a resolution, calling for St. Joseph County, Indiana to be placed in the Eastern zone. While some portions of Indiana quite naturally align with Chicago in the Central time zone, there is no question that Elkhart and South Bend belong in the Eastern Time zone.

The demographics of the Michiana region cannot be overlooked when selecting the time zone. Placing St. Joseph and Elkhart counties in the Eastern Time zone is a common sense solution.

I appreciate your attention and consideration on this matter as you approach the January decision.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Fred Upton", with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Fred Upton
Member of Congress

FSU:wq

All the best
to you.